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## Press Release

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### Summer Moves: Shipping a Second Car

**HEIDELBERG, GE** - Like their stateside counterparts, many Americans living in Germany are two-car families. Those planning to ship both vehicles during the summer permanent change of station (PCS) season should begin planning now to ensure smooth transport of their cars and motorcycles.

While most Soldiers or DOD civilians with PCS orders can ship one vehicle at government expense from their overseas duty location, shipping a second vehicle is an out of pocket expense. So, the first step is determining shipment cost and whether that expense fits the family budget.

Due to the high volume of summer moves, you should begin researching vehicle shipment costs and options as soon as you receive your PCS orders.

Like buying a car, your first step is finding the best price. That part's free. There are several commercial shipping companies to choose from. Get a free rate quotation from more than one company. The quoted price normally covers inland transport to the port, German and U.S. port charges, and customs fees. A PCS move can be costly. Knowing the cost of shipping a second POV months before you move will allow you to plan your budget accordingly.

If the shipping price is acceptable, your second step is gathering the proper documents. You'll need a copy of your PCS orders, vehicle registration, military I.D. card or other valid I.D.

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## **Shipping a Second Car**

The third step involves a trip to the car wash. In order to ship your vehicle, it must meet U.S.D.A. inspection standards. That means the motorcycle or auto must be free of dirt, soil, plant and animal life. This includes the interior, exterior, engine, engine compartment, and radiator. The interior must be vacuumed, including the trunk area. All personal effects must be removed, including air fresheners. Bottom line, if your vehicle does not meet these standards it will not be shipped.

Make sure your vehicle has no more than ¼ tank of fuel at time of shipment.

Now that your vehicle is clean, check its stickers. It must be a U.S. specification vehicle and have both the EPA and Department of Transportation stickers affixed. The EPA sticker should clearly be visible in the engine area. It's usually white with the word "CATALYST" listed on the bottom. The DOT sticker should be clearly visible in the door jam area. It is usually white with the Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and the month/year of manufacture listed on the bottom. If the vehicle is missing either of these stickers, which sometimes happens during body work, repainting, customization, you'll need to obtain a letter from the manufacturer or EPA or DOT to verify the vehicle was manufactured in the U.S. to comply with applicable U.S. standards. This normally takes a couple of weeks so don't wait! The number for EPA is (734) 214-4676; DOT can be reached at (202) 366-5291/1024.

U.S. and European vehicles often don't meet the same specifications for items like windshields, lights and emissions. If your vehicle is Euro-spec, it must be shipped through a certified independent commercial importer in the U.S. A list is available from the EPA. Having your European vehicle modified to meet EPA and DOT standards can be an expensive process. It is important to note that European specification vehicles cannot be modified to US standards while physically located in a European country. Many European companies claim that they can convert Euro-spec vehicles to U.S. specifications while your vehicle is still in Europe. These claims are false.

The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers' licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.